

REMARKS

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and asserted that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. With respect to the claimed database for storing a plurality of addresses, Applicants have submitted amended Figures 1, 3, and 4 to include an address database. The amendment to the drawings merely conforms the drawings to the specification at, for example, page 11, lines 21-26.

With respect to the claimed graphical user interface, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to graphical user interface 135, shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4.

With respect to the means for updating the music pricing at any time, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to billing module 140 in Figures 1, 3, and 4.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 42-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the terms "central" and "multitude" render the claims indefinite. In response to the rejection, Applicants have deleted the term "central" from claim 42 and changed the term "multitude" to "plurality" in claim 50.

In view of the above amendments the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claims 42-51.

35 U.S.C § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 42-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by at least one of *Schulhof* et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,541) and *Allen* (U.S. Patent No. 5,418,713). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 42, as amended, recites a combination including, for example, "a control system blanket transmitting music selections to the user stations." Neither *Shulhof* nor *Allen* disclose this feature. In particular, *Shulhof* discloses that:

Orders placed by the subscriber are routed via a cable television system 28, or from residential phone lines via telephone order and validation module 34, to an input portion of the transmission system 26. (Column 6, lines 42-47, emphasis added)

With respect to transmission of content, *Allen* states:

Generally speaking, the system shown in Fig.1 permits a consumer (not shown) to **select a specific title for preview or reproduction at a remote location 77 whereby digital information necessary for the preview or reproduction is sent over a communications network 50 to a remote server 70.** (Column 5, lines 36-42, emphasis added)

Each of the cited references teaches that content is transmitted only in response to user selection. Thus, neither *Shulhof* nor *Allen* disclose a combination including, for example, "a control system blanket transmitting music selections to the user stations," as recited in claim 42 and claims 43-51 which depend therefrom.

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Since the cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach each and every element of applicants invention as recited in the claims, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) rejection of claims 42-51 and reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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L.L.P.

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF JULY 29, 2002
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

42. (Amended) A system for recording music, comprising:
a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations, [each] the user
[station] stations including means for receiving and recording transmitted music
selections;
a [central] control system blanket transmitting music selections to the user
stations; and
a communications link between [each of] the user stations and the [central]
control system to verify to the control system when selected music selections have been
recorded; and
wherein the control system includes means [to bill] for billing the customer
locations for music selections that are recorded.

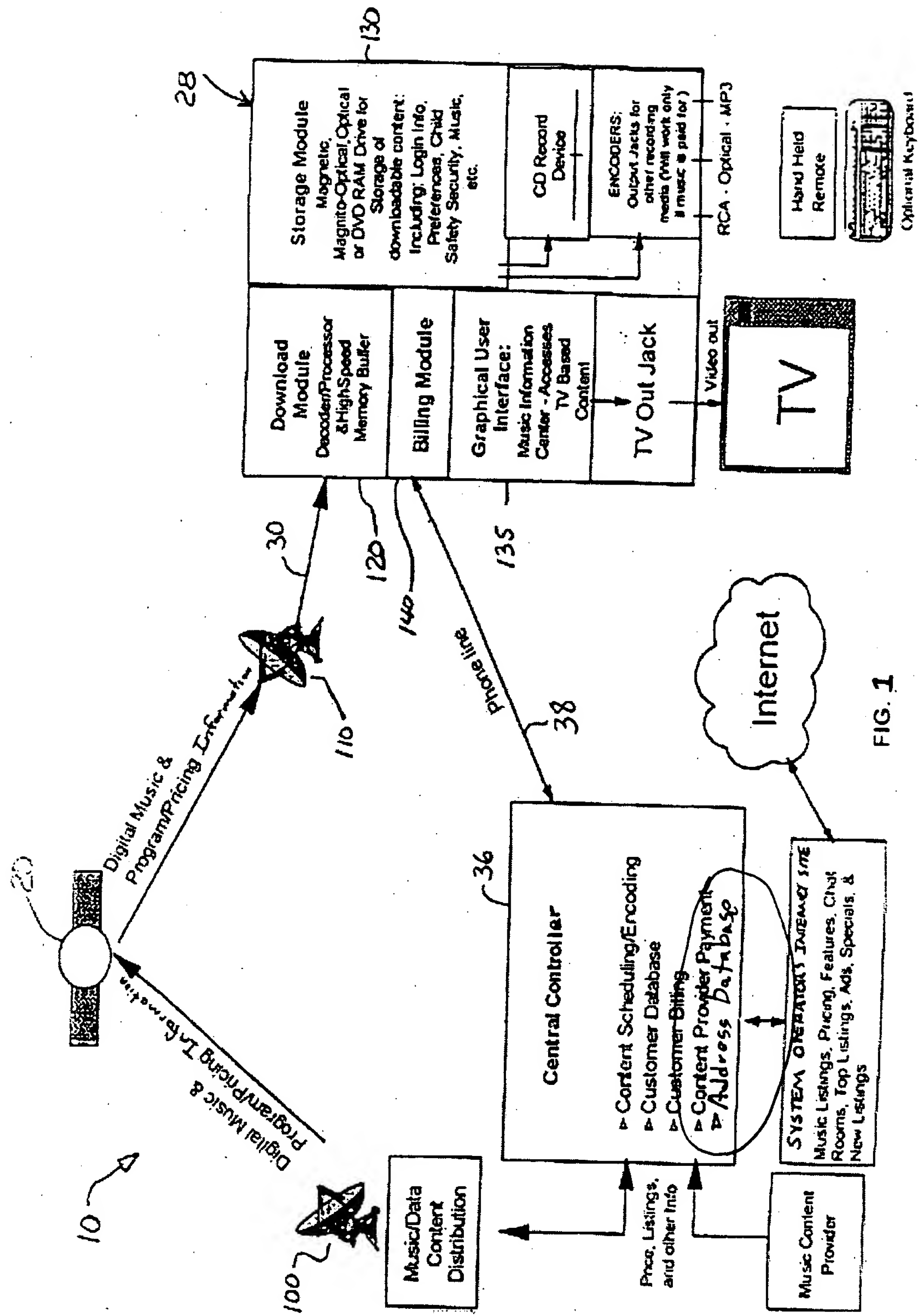
44. (Amended) A system according to Claim 43, wherein the graphical user
interface [comprises means to identify] identifies music selections by artist, title, and
category.

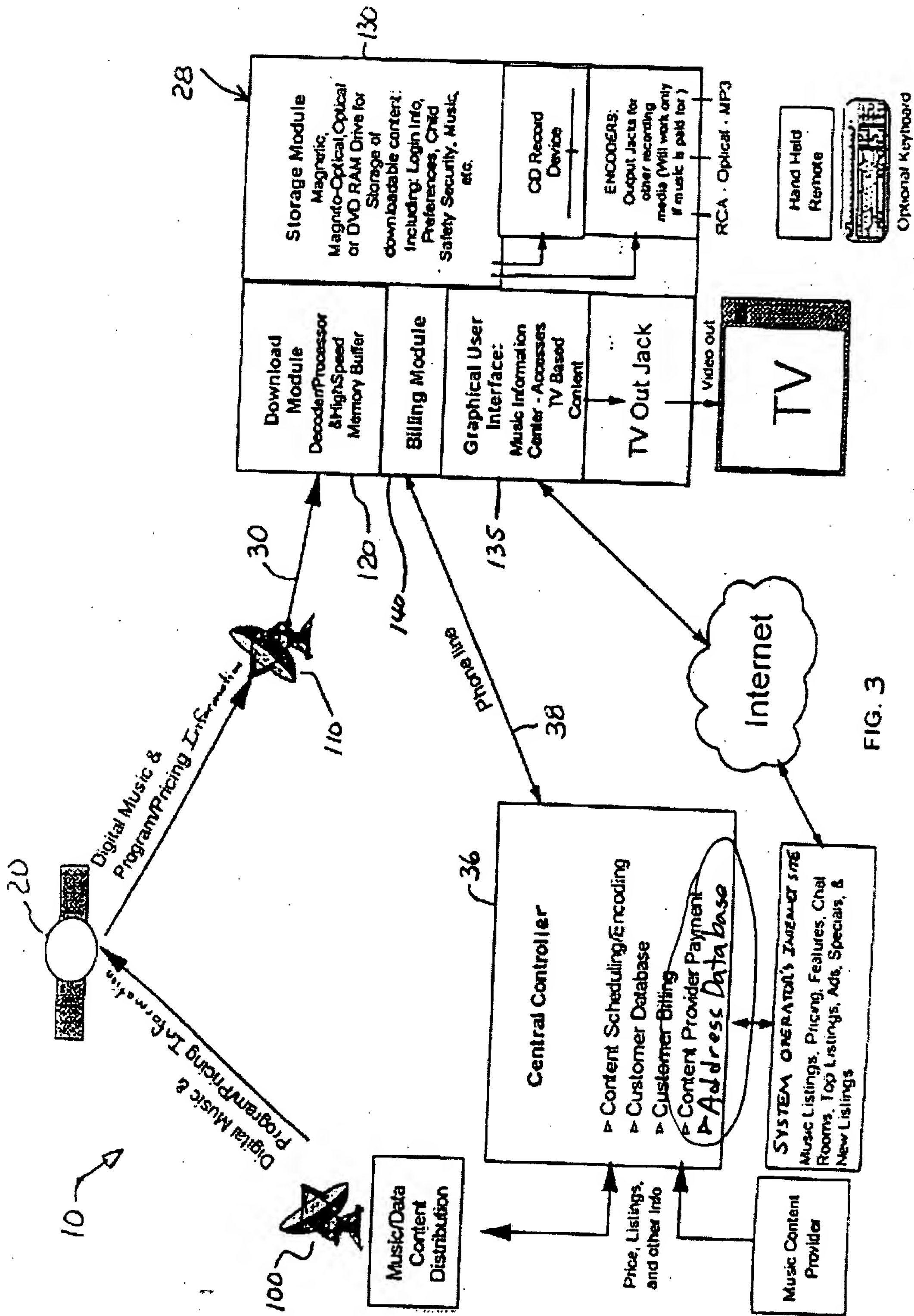
47. (Amended) A system according to Claim 42, wherein when the customer decides to purchase a music selection, the [a] graphical user interface prompts the customer to insert a recording medium into the user station.

50. (Amended) A system according to Claim 42, wherein the control system includes a database for storing a [multitude] plurality of addresses, each of said locations being associated with one of said addresses.

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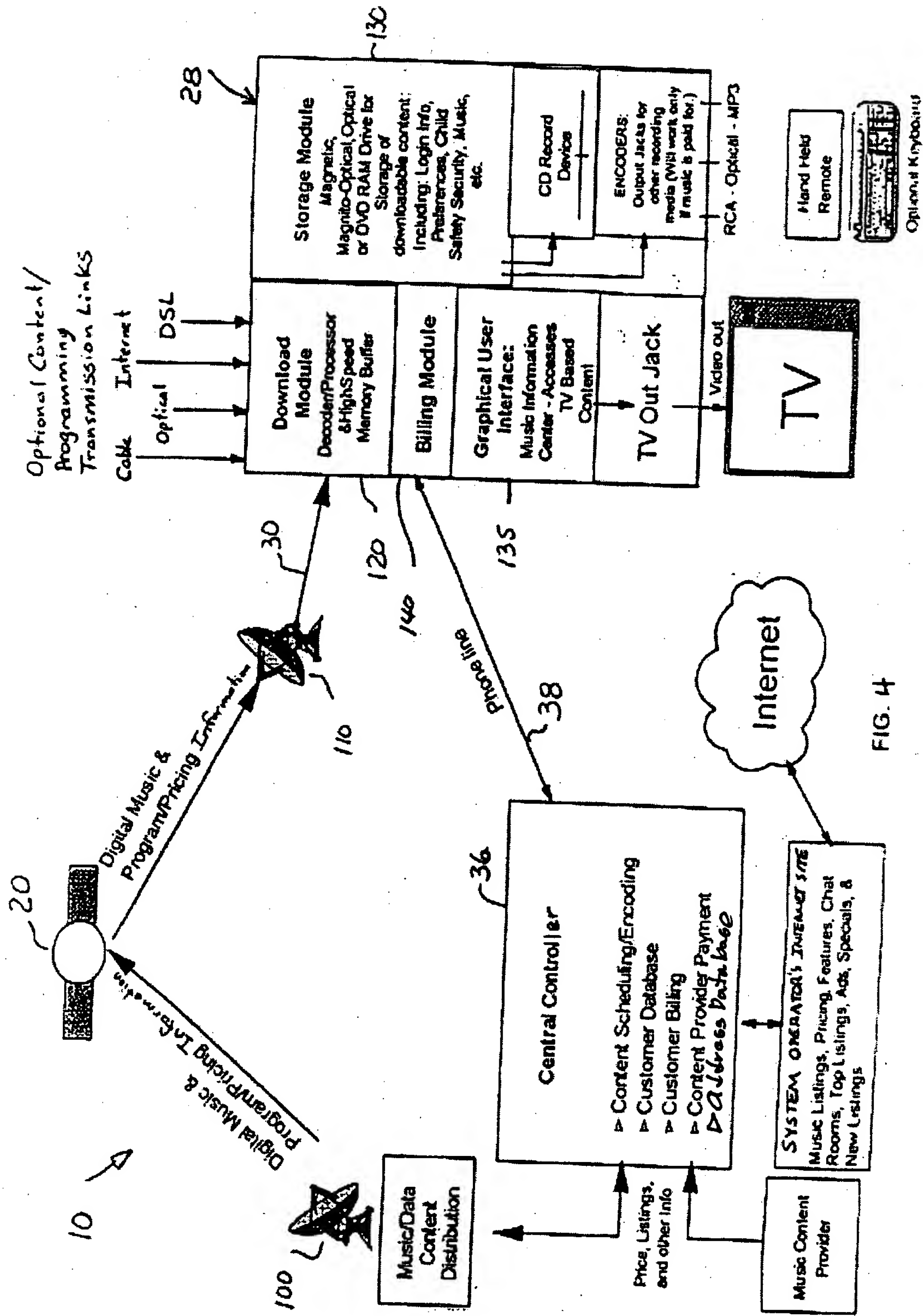


FIG. 4